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Wednesday, April 19, 2017 www.metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroPhilly

GETTIN' SMASHED WITH RPATZ

Charlie Hunnam talks about the difficult 'Lost City of Z.' 14

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Philly teacher hopes to air grievances. 4

ANYTHING YOU CAN DO ...

The Philadelphia Phantomz aren't just women playing tackle football, they are trying to change the way people think about the sport they love. 20

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FACEBOOK VIDEO MURDERER KILLS SELF

1 A murder suspect who posted a video on Facebook of the killing of a Cleveland man fatally shot himself after a "brief pursuit" by Pennsylvania State Police officers. Officers found Stephens in Erie County, Pennsylvania, after getting a tip around 11 a.m. local time from a "concerned citizen" who saw Stephens at a McDonald's, Major William Teper Jr. of the Pennsylvania State Police told a news conference.

Local media said an employee at the restaurant's drive-through window called police. Stephens had left the restaurant but stopped briefly when officers located his car nearby. He sped away, and police then hit his car with their vehicle, causing him to lose control and spin out, at which point Stephens shot himself. *For more see page 6.* REUTERS

TRUMP VOWS TO BACK US DAIRY FARMERS

2 President Donald Trump promised to defend American dairy farmers who have been hurt by Canada's protectionist trade practices, during a visit to the cheese-making state of Wisconsin. Canada's dairy sector is protected by high tariffs on imported products and controls on domestic production as a means of supporting prices that farmers receive. It is frequently criticized by other dairy-producing countries. "We're also going to stand up for our dairy farmers," Trump said in Kenosha, Wisconsin. "Because in Canada some very unfair things have happened to our dairy farmers and others." Trump did not go into detail about his concerns, but promised his administration would call the Canadian government, led by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, and demand an explanation. REUTERS

BRITISH PM MAY CALLS FOR EARLY ELECTION

3 British Prime Minister Theresa May called on Tuesday for an early election on June 8, saying she needed to strengthen her hand in divorce talks with the European Union by bolstering support for her Brexit plan. Standing outside her Downing Street office, May said she had been reluctant to ask parliament to back her move to bring forward the poll from 2020. But, after thinking "long and

hard" during a walking holiday, she decided it was necessary to try to stop the opposition "jeopardizing" her work on Brexit. Some were surprised by May's move — the Conservative prime minister has repeatedly said she does not want to be distracted by campaigning — but opinion polls give her a strong lead. REUTERS

5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

COLORFUL WALK

4 A boy walks a dog as ice drifts on the Irtysh River on Tuesday in Omsk, Russia. GETTY IMAGES

THREE KILLED IN CALIF. SHOOTING SPREE

5 A gunman with an apparent dislike of white people and government killed three people in downtown Fresno, California, before he was taken into custody while shouting "Allahu Akhbar," police said. The suspect, Kori Ali Muhammad, was also wanted in connection with the fatal shooting last week of an unarmed security guard at a Motel 6 in Fresno, Police Chief Jerry Dyer said. Muhammad fired at least 16 rounds in less than a minute at four downtown Fresno locations at about 10:45 a.m. local time before he was spotted running through the streets by a police officer. "Immediately upon the individual seeing the officer he literally dove onto the ground and was taken into custody and as he was taken into custody he yelled out, 'Allahu Akhbar,'" Dyer said. The term means "God is great" in Arabic. REUTERS

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ERIN TIERNAN, WEB REPORTER

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Philly is sprucing itself up for the NFL draft, but a public school teacher wants to use the event to draw attention to a contract dispute. SAM NEWHOUSE

Philly teacher wants union contract dispute to get full airing during NFL draft

George Bezanis is raising money to hire a plane to fly a protest banner and circle the skies during the upcoming festivities.

SAM NEWHOUSE
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For months, Philadelphia leaders have been touting the economic windfall the upcoming NFL draft is expected to bring to the city.

But public school teachers, who have been waiting for a new contract for five years, say they aren't expecting any of that to trickle down to them. The negotiations haven't gotten a great deal of public attention, but that may soon change.

George Bezanis, a social studies teacher at Central High School and teachers' union representative, wants to make the contract dispute visible to everyone who will descend upon the city for the draft.

Bezanis has started a crowdfunding page with the goal of hiring a plane to fly a protest banner over the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, where the three-day extravaganza is taking place from April 27-29.

On the crowdfunding page, Bezanis noted the massive banner on City Hall that is promoting the draft event. That banner reads: "The Future is Now."

In response, he wrote, "Where's the banner in support of teachers?" He added, "Why don't we fly a plane over the NFL draft and show them our banner?"

Bezanis had already raised $1,085 as of Tuesday evening from 51 supporters. He is trying to raise $2,000, enough so the aerial messaging can circle the sky for several hours from the Art Museum to City Hall.

"If the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers still doesn't have a contract by April 27, we need to remind our city's elected officials and the leaders of the district what they should really be passionate about — our schools," Bezanis wrote on his crowdfunding page.

Bezanis is also polling supporters to see what message they think the banner should read. Options featuring puns on the nature of the draft include, "Let's draft a contract for Philly teachers," and, "Philly teachers should always be #1 pick."

This isn't the first time Bezanis, a Philadelphia Federation of Teachers (PFT) representative and Caucus of Working Educators leader, has taken part in large-scale messaging in the name of a new contract. In February, he helped set up a billboard over Interstate 95 that read: "Welcome to Philadelphia, where we don't value our public school children."

The billboard was funded by more than $5,000 through a similar crowd-funding campaign.

Public school teachers have gone some 1,200 days without a raise. Their pay scale was frozen pending a new contract, according to PFT president Jerry T. Jordan.

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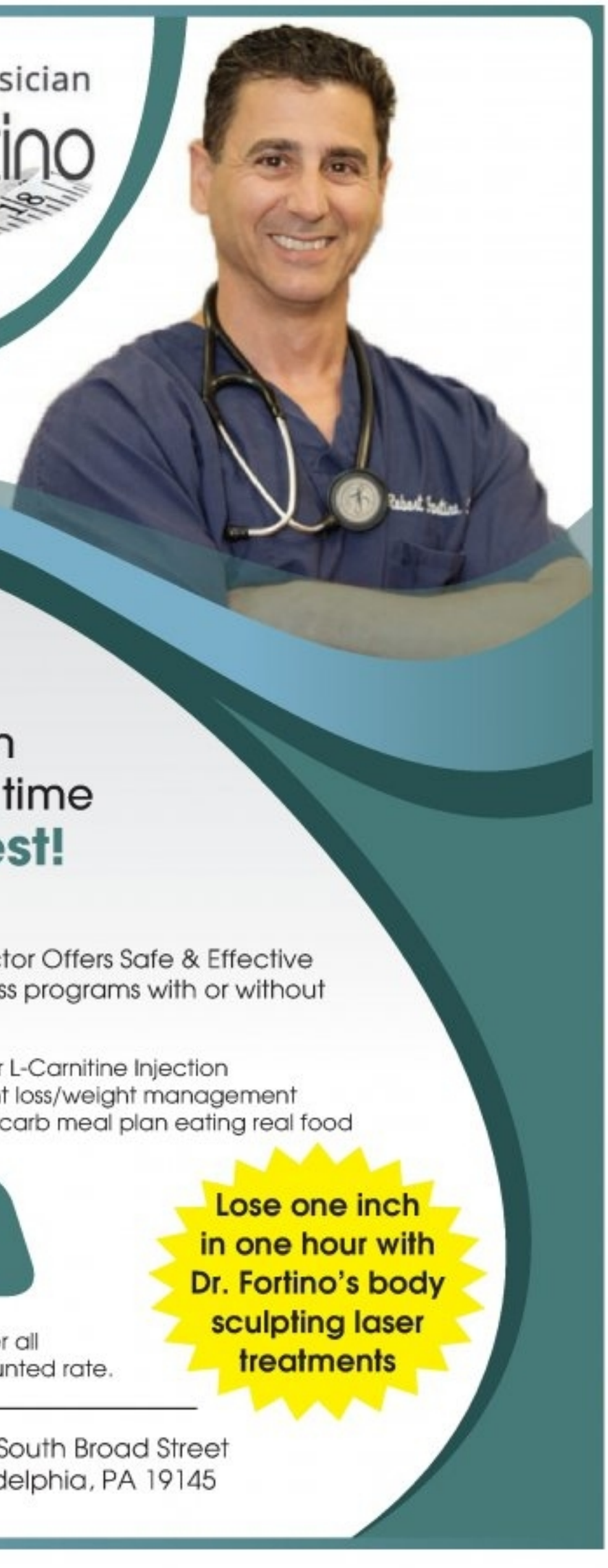

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Steve Stephens, sought after killing a man in Cleveland on Facebook Live, killed himself Tuesday while being pursued by Pennsylvania State Police. PROVIDED

'Facebook killer' kills self in Penn.

After a two-day manhunt, the man who authorities say shot a stranger then posted the crime on Facebook, shot himself.

SAM NEWHOUSE
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sam.newhouse@metro.us

A manhunt for "Facebook killer" Steve Stephens ended Tuesday after he killed himself in Erie County, Pennsylvania, while being pursued by state police.

The suspect, identified as Steve Stephens, videotaped himself fatally shooting 75-year-old Robert Godwin in Cleveland, authorities have said.

On Tuesday, Stephens shot himself after police attempted to stop his vehicle, Pennsylvania State Police announced.

Stephens was spotted Tuesday morning by police in Erie County, authorities said. "A traffic stop was attempted and, after a brief pursuit, Stephens shot and killed himself. More information will be released as it becomes available."

Stephens was the subject of a nationwide manhunt after posting the video of the killing on Sunday.

State police found Stephens in Erie County after getting a tip from the public that his white Ford Fusion was parked outside a McDonald's fast-food restaurant, Calvin Williams, the Cleveland police chief, told a news conference.

After a brief chase, Stephens stopped his vehicle, Williams said.

"As the officers approached that vehicle Steve Stephens took his own life," Williams said. "We would have preferred that it had not ended this way," he added, saying he and the community would have had "a lot of questions" for Stephens.

Stephens, who had no prior criminal record, was not suspected in any other killings, Cleveland officials said. Stephens said in a separate video on Facebook on Sunday that he had already killed a dozen others.

The shooting marked the latest video clip of a violent crime to turn up on Facebook, raising questions about how the world's biggest social media network moderates content.

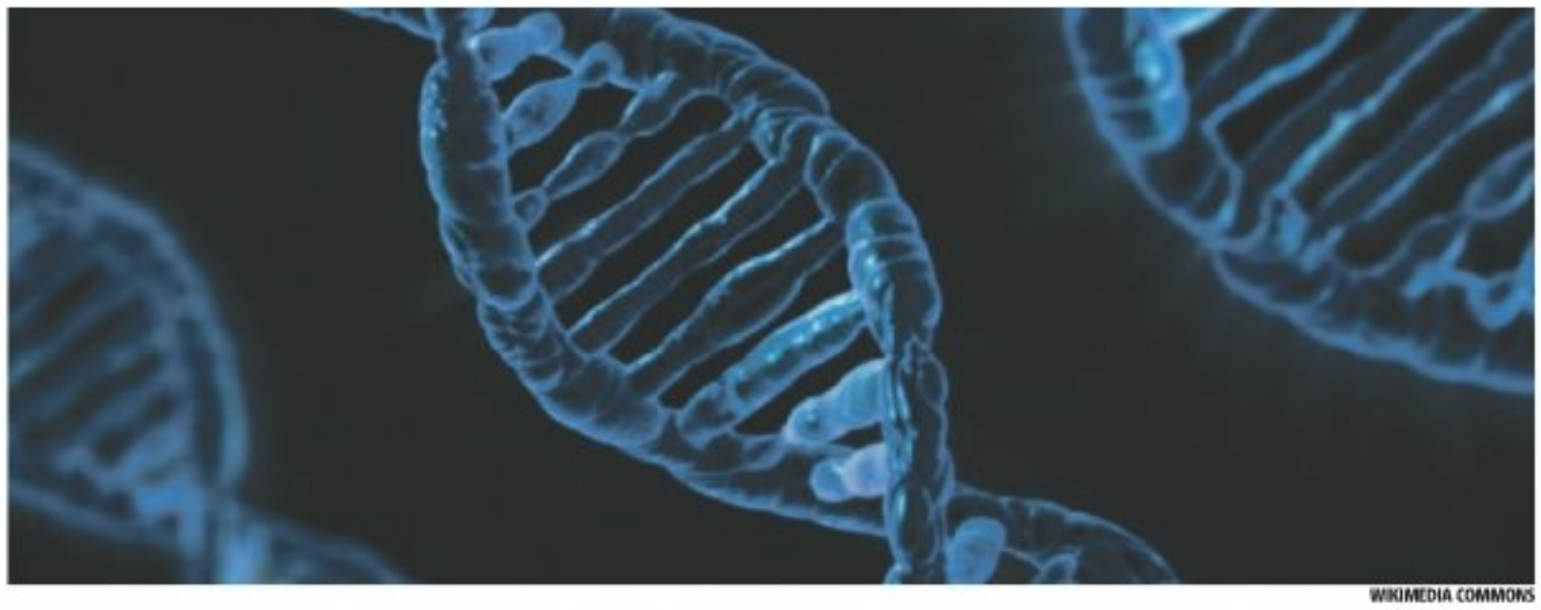
The company on Monday said it would review how it monitors violent footage and other objectionable material in response to the killing. The shooting video was visible on Facebook for nearly two hours before it was reported, the company said.

Stephens is not believed to have known Godwin, a retired foundry worker who media reports said spent Easter Sunday morning with his son and daughter-in-law before he was killed.

Additional reporting by Reuters.

Stephens' vehicle. FBI

DNA evidence no savior of wrongfully convicted, Northeastern professor says



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

DNA evidence has kept innocent people out of jail, but doesn't exist in the vast majority of criminal cases.

KRISTIN TOUSSAINT
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kristin.toussaint@metro.us

Since DNA technology entered our criminal justice system in the late 1980s, more than 340 people have been exonerated of wrongful convictions.

That's good news for the people whose records have been set straight, but it's actually bad news for the criminal justice system as a whole, according to Daniel Medwed, a Northeastern University professor of law and criminal justice.

What's so bad about righting those wrongs? First, that the judicial system was wrong that many times about who committed a crime. Second, DNA evidence doesn't exist in most criminal cases.

"One of the issues of DNA is that it creates the appearance of solving the problem of 'innocent man convicted,' but it really doesn't because so few cases actually involve biological evidence," Medwed said.

That means there's less chance of correcting a wrong conviction when there's no DNA evidence involved, unless we look at why wrongful convictions happen in the first place, said Medwed, who examines the issue in his latest project, the book "Wrongful Convictions and the DNA Revolution." Published in March, the book examines 25 years of DNA exonerations. Medwed wrote one chapter and edited the entire book.

The point is to try to understand what went wrong in cases that convicted innocent prisoners, he said. We know those cases had errors because DNA technology later corrected them, but that means many other cases without DNA evidence probably have errors, too, "based on the idea that those factors appear in non-DNA cases as well," Medwed said.

One contributing factor to wrongful convictions are eyewitnesses who identify the wrong suspects. If there's DNA evidence, an inaccurate identification gets righted. If there's no DNA evidence, juries could base their verdicts on those inaccurate eyewitnesses.

DNA is most often involved in sexual assault and murder cases, Medwed said, but usually doesn't appear in cases involving such crimes as robbery, street theft and murder by firearm.

"It's much harder to overturn those other cases when you don't have the magic bullet of science," he said.

The success of DNA evidence is basically a distraction, Medwed said, from the other ways our criminal justice system fails innocent people.

"I think the system has begun to rely on DNA, that's part of my concern," Medwed said. "As great a tool it is, DNA doesn't appear in many cases, and we don't want the impression that problems are solved."

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New report details failures that contributed to death of Philly firefighter

A new federal report on the 2014 death of Philadelphia Firefighter Joyce Craig in a basement blaze showed that miscommunication about the seriousness of the fire, in a addition to flawed safety equipment, contributed to her death.

The exact cause of Craig's Dec. 9 death has long been a subject of speculation. What is known is that she died from smoke inhalation while battling the blaze in West Oak, on the 1600 block of Middleton Street.

"Can't breathe, I can't breathe," Lt. Craig radioed from the basement of the burning home at 3:06 a.m., while fellow firefighters unsuccessfully searched for her, the report found.

Craig, 37, was Philadelphia's first female firefighter to die in the line of duty.

"Before she could be located, her Buddy Breather hoseline burnt through and she lost her available air," according to the report, released by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. The report found that Craig died after getting lost and running out of air.

Lt. Joyce Craig died while battling a fire in West Oak Lane on Dec. 9, 2014. A new report said equipment failures contributed to her death. PROVIDED

Craig, who was working that day to earn overtime pay to help buy her children Christmas gifts, was found wearing an oxygen mask with an empty air tank.

According to the report, miscommunication worsened the situation.

The report stated that at 2:53 a.m. that morning, Craig's arriving Engine 73 advised other firefighters to "reduce speed" because no flames were visible and the fire was deemed to be less serious.

Craig's family is suing the fire equipment manufacturer. Attorneys for the family said the report appears to support their claims that Craig's death was preventable.

"Craig … literally went into the heat of battle without the proper resources to come out alive," said attorney David L. Kwass. "This was a totally foreseeable and preventable tragedy. We now know and will demonstrate at trial that Firefighter Craig never stood a chance at surviving that fire because her equipment — from her personal protective suit to her air tank system — was inadequate."

SAM NEWHOUSE

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Lawsuit against Trump over foreign payments expands

A nonprofit watchdog expanded a lawsuit accusing President Donald Trump of violating the Constitution by letting his hotels and restaurants accept payments from foreign governments.

The amended complaint filed Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Manhattan adds a restaurant trade group whose members include nationally known chefs Tom Colicchio and Alice Waters, and a hotel events booker in Washington, D.C., as plaintiffs.

It is intended to address concern over whether the watchdog, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, was itself harmed by Trump and had standing to sue at all.

President Donald Trump GETTY IMAGES

Trump is expected to respond by April 21. He had said the original suit, filed Jan. 23, had no merit.

Spokesmen for the Justice Department did not respond to requests for comment Tuesday.

The amended complaint said Trump violates the Constitution's "emoluments" clause, which bars him from accepting various gifts from foreign governments without congressional approval, by maintaining ownership over his business empire despite ceding day-to-day control to his sons, Eric and Donald Jr.

It said members of Restaurant Opportunities Centers United Inc., which represents more than 200 restaurants and nearly 25,000 workers, have improperly lost business, wages and tips to Trump's competing businesses.

Jill Phaneuf, the other new plaintiff, works for a hospitality company that books events in hotels near Washington's "Embassy Row," which house foreign diplomats, and claimed that Trump is costing her commissions. REUTERS

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US cargo ship blasts off for space station with supplies and experiments

A United Launch Alliance Atlas 5 rocket lifted off from Florida on Tuesday, propelling a cargo capsule filled with supplies and science experiments toward the International Space Station.

The 19-story booster soared off its seaside launch pad at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station at 11:11 a.m. EDT. NASA broadcast an unprecedented 360-degree view of the launch via YouTube, in a debut of new video technology.

"A beautiful launch," said Vern Thorp, a United Launch Alliance manager. "It looks like we nailed the orbit once again."

Atop the rocket was an Orbital ATK Cygnus capsule loaded with more than 7,600 pounds of food, supplies and experiments for the station, a $100 billion research lab flying about 250 miles above Earth.

The Cygnus is scheduled to reach the station, a project of 15 nations, on Saturday. Its cargo includes a greenhouse that the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration is testing to grow food for astronauts on long missions.

The capsule also carries 38 shoebox-sized satellites and a high school student's science project that will test how telomeres, which are structures at the ends of chromosomes, are affected by microgravity.

As people age, telomeres tend to shorten. Preliminary results from a study of astronaut twins, however, show the telomeres of former astronaut Scott Kelly, who spent nearly a year aboard the station in 2015 and 2016, actually lengthened during his time in orbit, the opposite of what was expected.

A United Launch Alliance Atlas 5 rocket GETTY IMAGES

"The researchers are kind of scratching their heads at that," space station associate scientist Tara Ruttley said during a press conference on Monday.

Tuesday's successful launch followed a month's delay while United Launch Alliance, a partnership of Lockheed Martin and Boeing Co., resolved a technical issue with the rocket's hydraulic system. REUTERS

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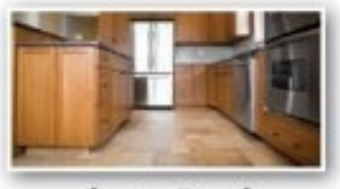

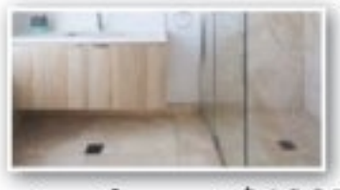

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Thousands of drug cases to be dismissed after lab scandal

Close to 20,000 Massachusetts criminal drug cases are set to be dismissed because of a scandal involving a former state chemist who admitted faking tests, civil liberties activists and prosecutors said on Tuesday.

It will mean the largest number of drug cases tossed out in U.S. history due to one person, according to the American Civil Liberties Union. Rogue chemist Annie Dookhan pleaded guilty in 2013 to tampering with evidence during her nine years working at a state crime lab in Boston. The scandal shook the foundation of the state's criminal justice system.

The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court in January ordered prosecutors across the state to dismiss the vast majority of convictions tied to that lab, where Dookhan identified evidence as illegal narcotics even without testing it, in an effort to make herself seem more efficient.

Annie Dookhan GETTY IMAGES

"Today is a major victory for justice and fairness, and for thousands of people in the commonwealth who were unfairly convicted of drug offenses," said Matthew Segal, legal director of the ACLU of Massachusetts, which represented many of the defendants during the appeal process.

"The victims of this crisis waited far too long for justice. It shouldn't have taken years of litigation by the ACLU, public defenders, and pro bono lawyers to address this stain on the Commonwealth's justice system," Segal said.

Prosecutors in Massachusetts' Suffolk County, which includes Boston, said on Tuesday they had opted to stand by the prosecution of just 1.5 percent of the cases they had brought involving Dookhan.

"The average defendant has more than 60 entries on his record," County District Attorney Daniel Conley said, referring to the cases his office would still pursue. REUTERS

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RACHAEL VAUGHAN CLEMMONS
rachael.clemmons@metro.us

Oops! Carmelo Anthony impregnated a stripper, maybe

On Monday, news broke that Carmelo Anthony and his wife, La La Anthony, had split. We wondered if the stress of the current NBA season had anything to do with it, but turns out the real reason is way more sinister and juicy. I'm talkin' gossip gold.

According to TMZ, the 32-year-old went and got a stripper pregnant, which is so uninspired that I could vomit. Multiple sources tell the site the New York Knicks player cheated on his wife with a woman who is gainfully employed at a New York gentleman's cub. And now, she is claiming she's six-and-a-half months pregnant with Anthony's kid. That's not great! The mystery woman is demanding Carmelo pitch in for all pregnancy- and baby-related costs, which he definitely should do.

Melo and La La's marriage has reportedly been rocky for a while, and Carmelo impregnating a random woman certainly doesn't help matters. Yesterday, a source told TMZ the breakup was "amicable" and that they have "much respect for each other," but if the news about the ol' infidelity and impregnation are true, I really doubt it. Neither of them has bothered to file for divorce, but TMZ reports that a reconciliation is unlikely.

Carmelo, who plays forward for a team that loses a lot, and La La, most famous for being an MTV VJ during a simpler time, have been married for seven years. They share a son, 10-year-old Kiyan.

I don't want to tell La La what to do, but she should go ahead and leave him. Cheating on your wife and getting exotic dancers pregnant is all very 1997. Nobody has time for that.

Harry Styles will talk about Taylor Swift if you make him

Harry Styles, a man who increasingly looks like a young Mick Jagger and a pussy-bow blouse had a baby — cut his hair and sat down with Rolling Stone (the magazine, not Mick) to talk about a bunch of things. Let's dive in.

Women are the future.
"How can you say young girls don't get it? They're our future. Our future doctors, lawyers, mothers, presidents. They keep the world going."

He goes to great lengths to be very boring.
Executive Producer Ben Winston says a commitment to being absolutely dull keeps the 23-year-old shenanigan-free. "There is more chance of me going to Mars next week than there is of Harry having some sort of addiction."

He's totally chill about T. Swift.
"I mean, I don't know if ["Out of the Woods" and "Style"] are about me or not … but I'm lucky if everything [we went through] helped create those songs." BTW, Swift and Styles dated for three whole months.

In conclusion, Harry Styles is either a major PR master, or just a really boring dude with an amazing voice that I'm super into against my will.

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Lady Gaga and Prince William talk mental health

The British royal family is very into speaking out about mental health and also feelings right now. Yesterday, it was the Beautiful Ginger Prince (Harry, duh). And now his big brother is getting in on it, with the help of y'alls favorite pop star.

In a video produced for Heads Together, Prince William casually Facetimes with Lady Gaga, as if it is an everyday occurrence. The two chat about breaking down the stigma around mental health issues and Gaga's own experience with depression and anxiety.

The 30-year-old pop star tells her old pal that opening up about mental well being can make a huge difference. "I feel like we are not hiding anymore, we're starting to talk. And that's what we need to do."

Although Prince William says he's just now learning about mental health, the four minute video still manages to be heartwarming and it's clear that William is contractually passionate about the cause. Also it's pretty clear Gaga chose her "at home wig" with personal care, opting for a subtle nut brown that wouldn't distract from the serious issues at hand.

WTF is wrong with Chris Brown?

The singer, who has a sordid history of violence, allegedly punched photographer Bennie L. Vines at a nightclub in Tampa. According to E! News, Brown and his crew were noticeably riled up before the incident. Per the Tampa PD, Vines reported Brown sucker punched him for allegedly taking photos — but left the scene by the time officers arrived. Vines suffered a busted lip, and although he refused medical attention, he plans to take legal action.

This kind of behavior is pretty standard for the 27-year-old singer.

In 2014, Brown admitted to MTV News that he deals with a lot of anger issues. "I think it's all about the choices you make," he told host Sway Calloway. "With me, I deal with a lot of anger issues from my past … you're not supposed to keep it inside because it'll bottle up and you'll become a monster."

A monster, huh? Well, at least Brown knows what he is. May the singer grow up and get help — hopefully before someone else becomes his next, unwilling victim.

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Charlie Hunnam goes into the wild

The "Sons of Anarchy" vet talks "The Lost City of Z" and getting drunk with RPatz.

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In "The Lost City of Z," in theaters Friday, Charlie Hunnam plays real-life explorer Percy Fawcett, who journeyed out to the Bolivian jungle at the turn of the century. AIDAN MONAGHAN, AMAZON STUDIOS, BLEECKER STREET

Charlie Hunnam has nothing but nice things to say about shooting a film in the middle of a jungle. For "The Lost City of Z," based on David Grann's best-seller, the English actor, 37, spent part of the shoot in the wilds of Colombia. He hacked through jungle. He got dehydrated. He lost weight. And he loved it.

GETTY

"It's one of those wonderful parts of the film business that you get to experience these extraordinary things," Hunnam says. "It's something you could do outside of the film business, but it would be very difficult and require enormous amounts of money and willpower and organization."

Instead, he got paid to do something crazy. Hunnam plays Percy Fawcett, a British explorer who, starting in the early 1900s, journeyed across the globe to map uncharted parts of Bolivia. Over his expeditions, he became obsessed with finding a city he wasn't even sure existed.

Such travels not only open the mind. They change the body, too.

"It became very, very clear that we eat far too much," Hunnam says. "I was able to survive very easily on a quarter of the food I normally eat. I was losing weight, but there was also a clarity and, oddly, an emotional stability that came with it."

One of his co-stars — Robert Pattinson, who plays his partner on two of the missions — liked to say that they got "addicted" to what they were going through.

"Once the film was finished, there was a real reluctance to go back to a normal pattern of eating," Hunnam says. "There was something about proving one's self, which was hard to give up after policing ourselves for so long."

And then when filming wrapped, he and Pattinson got wasted.

"The night we finished, we both decided we'd get drunk and have a feast. I ate pasta and I had a steak and ice cream and french fries and everything. And then I got violently sick, as one obviously would."

White man's burden?

"The Lost City of Z" might sound like one of those imperialist romps, where white Europeans journey to the other side of the world and treat the indigenous locals like scary others to be tamed. But Fawcett isn't an imperialist. He's genuinely curious about the people he finds, and has no ulterior motive other than exploration.

"He was a real pioneer of tolerance and understanding, of the significance of equality and the importance of different cultures," Hunnam says. "There were tribes that were seen to be a little bit regressive or unevolved, not as sophisticated as Western European culture.

"But Fawcett didn't subscribe to that at all. He thought maybe we were going in the wrong direction. Maybe these guys are the ones that have it right. Unfortunately, he was in the minority and we continued to evolve the way we were going. Now we're in this s— show of the society we've created for ourselves, where social media is a lot more important than literacy. We should have all listened to Fawcett."

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The Museum of the American Revolution is located at 3rd and Chestnut. BRITTANY SALERNO

Museum of the American Revolution opens today

The Museum of the American Revolution will open today, the 242nd anniversary of the "shot heard 'round the world," which launched the Revolutionary War in 1775.

To celebrate the occasion, there will be a grand opening ceremony at 10:30 a.m. in the plaza at the museum's entrance.

Former Vice President Joe Biden will give the keynote address, which will be followed by musical performances from the Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps, Philadelphia Boys Choir, Jamez McCorkle and Sydney James Harcourt from the original cast of "Hamilton."

This portion of the day's events is ticketed. However, there will be two events open to the public.

At 8 a.m. there will be a tribute at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Washington Square Park, which runs until 8:45 a.m. At 9 a.m., Gov. Tom Wolf will give remarks at Independence Hall, accompanied by representatives from the original 13 states.

For more information, visit: amrevmuseum.org.

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"The guys grow them, the women love them."

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Michael Wink, one of the event's organizers, has a passion for beards. PROVIDED

Philly's best beards have the opportunity to showcase their winter growth at the Philadelphia Beard Festival on Saturday, April 22. But don't feel uninvited if you aren't sporting some fancy facial hair. Both women and men alike are welcomed to The Schmidt's Commons for whiskey tastings, craft beers, massage stations, lawn games and more.

We chat with one of the event's organizers, Michael Wink, about the creation of the Philadelphia Beard Festival and how he's styling his beard for the ladies.

How did this event come about?

As event producers, my partners and I are always looking to find niche events to do. Having a beard and talking to other bearded men, I quickly realized people have a true passion for beards. Every time I open a message up on a dating site it always starts with "nice beard." The guys grow them, the women love them and the amount of beard products on the market is growing. There's big business in beards now. So it's really a perfect storm to package into an event. Other people have done beard-related events and contests in the past, but no one puts all the extras into an event or festival like my team does.

Surely ladies will enjoy this event as well. What other aspects of the festival will nonbeard-bearing people enjoy?

Interestingly enough, women have purchased 4 percent more tickets so far than the men. This shows us they truly love a bearded man. The Bearded Speed Dating was designed specifically for women to find that beard of their dreams. They can also do some shopping with over 20 vendors, or enjoy some cocktails and do some beard watching. There will be plenty to do and see whether you have facial hair or not.

How will you fashion your beard for the festival?

I've seen all the single ladies on social media that are coming so I'll definitely have my beard trimmed, oiled up and looking nice the day of the event.

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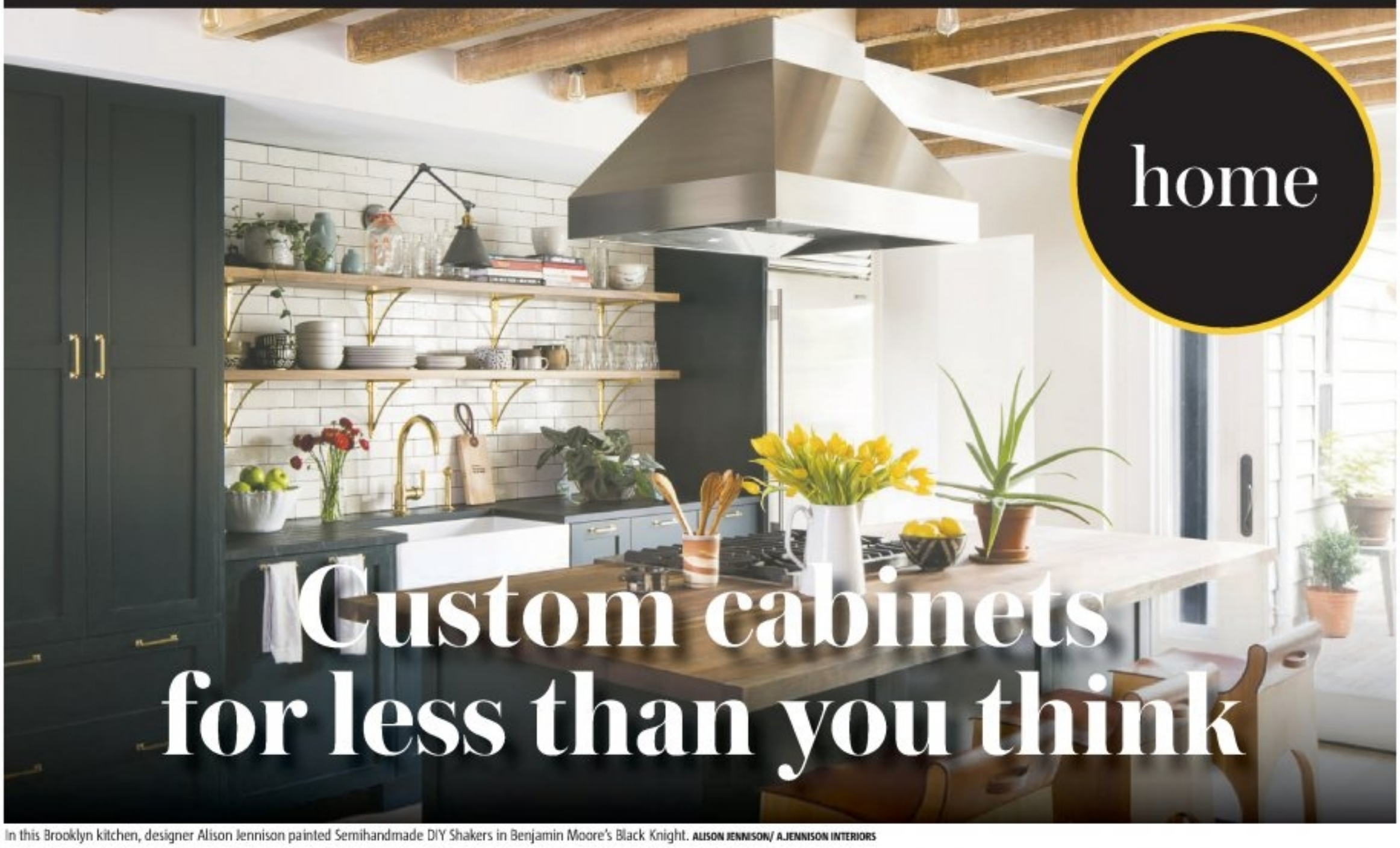

home

Custom cabinets for less than you think

In this Brooklyn kitchen, designer Alison Jennison painted Semihandmade DIY Shakers in Benjamin Moore's Black Knight. ALISON JENNISON/ A.JENNISON INTERIORS

Semihandmade offers the best Ikea hack yet.

TINA CHADHA
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You don't need deep pockets to outfit your kitchen with custom cabinets. These days savvy remodelers who can't spring for a cabinetmaker are opting for a high/low kitchen plan that combines Ikea's trusty budget system with beautiful handmade doors and drawer fronts by Semihandmade. The California-based company, which launched in 2011, works with old and new Ikea kitchens and closets to help you design the space of your Pinterest-dreams.

Here's how it works: Plan your kitchen with Ikea. The genius Swedish retailer knows you love a good hack, and lets you order cabinets without the doors, drawers and hardware. Submit the plan from Ikea's website to Semihandmade, and select from one of its 60 styles to put your stamp on the finished look.

The brand also features a DIY option that allows you paint cabinet doors whichever color your heart desires. One of our favorite kitchens from designer Sarah Sherman Samuel, which are somewhat of an online sensation, features cabinets in Farrow & Ball's greenish/gray Pigeon.

We spoke to founder John McDonald about the benefits of using an Ikea system and the relentless appeal of the Shaker door.

Why go with an Ikea kitchen?

The benefit of Ikea is it's the biggest furniture

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According to McDonald, the average Semihandmade customer spends about $4,000 for Semihandmade door and drawer fronts, panels and trim. This price doesn't include Ikea cabinets, hardware and installation. According to the brand, with the combo of Ikea and Semihandmade, customers save 30 percent to 40 percent on the cost of a custom kitchen.

Buy the bones of your cabinets at Ikea, and add your signature with hardware and fronts, like these in walnut. DESTINATION EICHLER

retailer in the world. Some of their stuff doesn't have a long shelf life — their kitchens are different. JD Power rated them for the last couple of years No. 1 in customer satisfaction, a really great system. They have solid boxes. It's a particle-board box, but that's the standard in Europe. That's the standard with some of the most expensive cabinet manufacturers in the world.

People in the U.S. can complain, like, "Oh my God, it's so cheap." That's what the rest of the world uses, and it's perfectly fine. They also work with Blum, which is the best-known hardware supplier in the world for hinges and door slides.

Brass hardware adds a modern touch. HAVENLY

Your doors aren't solid wood?

Just to clarify, solid doors don't really exist. You couldn't make a rectangular door in solid material without it being unbelievably heavy, expensive, time consuming. And it would crack and warp. Most of our doors have veneer faces. Veneer is a thin layer of real wood that is applied to both sides of a three-quarter-inch MDF core. MDF, or medium density fiberboard, is just about the flattest and most structurally stable surface available.

Certainly a plywood box is better, but it's a lot more expensive. And the question is: What do you need it to be better for? It's like saying a Porsche is better than a Toyota, it absolutely is. But a Toyota is still a really good car.

What are some things you're excited about?

We work with well-known companies like Stikwood and make doors with their products, like reclaimed-lumber doors. We work with companies like Art of Board, which is a recycled-skateboard company, and Plyboo, which is a really high-end bamboo company. Some of those are solid and really high-quality. On the other hand, we do have doors in the last year that are more at the Ikea price point. They are still all made in the U.S. but it's much more for a customer who is budget-conscious and on a tight timeframe.

Kitchen-remodel trends

McDonald shares the most-sought-after features from Semihandmade.

- The biggest seller we have is what we consider traditional Shaker doors, which is a simple frame and panel door. If you go in to Instagram, the biggest response is from the traditional doors. But I always say, a Shaker is in between traditional and modern. It can look like both depending on how you accessorize it.
- We're seeing a lot of two tones. A lot of kitchens right now are doing darker lower cabinets and light uppers.
- If you can hide the appliance, integrating a seamless look as possible is what people want. The exception being a stove, which is like a piece of furniture. It's a point of pride for people.
- As far as pulls, in the last couple of years, brass has gotten really popular. Stainless is always the safest, but it's all about matte, which is the really popular look.

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Women's tackle football changing rules in Philly and football world

The women of the Philadelphia Phantomz hit just as hard as the men — and are close to breaking through.

EVAN MACY
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The Philadelphia Phantomz are not only looking to win games, but also change the sports landscape. CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Women can play football. Real football.

Not just with flags dangling from a belt or while decked out in lingerie — real tackle football.

Don't believe it? You will soon. The Philadelphia Phantomz, an organically birthed all-women's tackle football team in the WFA, plays its home games in at North Philly's Gratz Field, and they play the right way.

Not for money, not for glory and not because they have to. But because they can.

"I swear I wake up dreaming about it every day," Star Wright, a North Philly native, team founder, linebacker and tight end, said. "Practice time, it's time to hit somebody. It's just a way to get some aggression out. Being a woman, being a mother, having a job, having responsibilities, it's freeing to be able to hit somebody for fun."

Women make up more than 45 percent of the NFL's weekly audience, an audience that is the biggest for any entertainment or sports programming in America. For Wright and the Phantomz, tackling like the men is not just liberating, it's the way things are supposed to be.

"It's word of mouth," she said. "We always have football in our conversations. It's taboo for the world, for women to be playing football but we get a lot of young girls interested in football."

Wright is one of many women who proudly bring their kids with them to practice. Women of all shapes, sizes, athletic and ethnic backgrounds join together on the gridiron and attack not just their opposition, but social mores, too.

"I think football is kind of like, an outlet," player Sheree Lapointe, 31, said. "It's my go-to. I can't imagine myself not playing football or being a part of this organization. I think of football 24/7. I am on YouTube, I am watching it on TV, I am watching film from last year."

When you find Lapointe's teammate Rene Pfender on the field — in her pads and playing wide receiver — you'd have no idea she is 51 years old and has been a formative force in women's football. But she's just another example of the diversity and unique togetherness the women on the Phantomz share.

"I think it's just trying to get it out there," Pfender, who also kicks and punts, said, referencing the more than 800 fans who were at their last home game. "I consider myself a pioneer in the sport. Trying to take girls from playing soccer, powder-puff football and getting them into tackle football. We are just one major sponsor away from this hitting the big leagues."

The team's offensive coordinator, Greg Bonner, is a believer too — and he wasn't at first.

"I will say, because I went from three weeks ago to not even knowing this existed to being all in, I take the game really seriously," said Bonner, who has coached at Edison High School and who describes the Phantomz offense as a power-run scheme. "If it was able to draw me in this deep in a matter of weeks, I can only imagine the average fan."

In the ideal world, the women of the Phantomz are committed to igniting, girls can grow up with the same opportunities as men — including athletics. The benefits that come with camaraderie, fitness, endurance, discipline and the countless other football-entrenched character traits men are privy to should, and finally are, becoming more available to women. And they are taking advantage.

"Sometimes as men, we take for granted that we are able play this game from the time we are 5 all the way up," Bonner said. "Because their opportunities are more limited, they are more focused. They take pride in every single rep."

The team's next home game is on May 6.

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Why Wentz thinks he'll improve in 2017

Will the sophomore quarterback take a big step forward in his second NFL season?

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For all of Carson Wentz' ups and downs in 2016, he still had an extremely impressive rookie campaign. GETTY IMAGES

If you ask Carson Wentz, there's really only one stat that mattered in 2016.

"I will always hold myself to high expectations and at the end of the day we finished 7-9," the quarterback said. "That's not good enough for anybody in this building. We all need to make strides so we can be playing into January."

He's being a bit humble.

Wentz broke the NFL rookie record for completions (379) in 2016 and also finished his rookie campaign with the fourth-most passing yards (3,782) in Eagles single-season history — also posting the fourth best mark among rookies in NFL history. He was the first Eagles quarterback to start all 16 regular-season games since Donovan McNabb did it in 2008.

And he did it in the most unusual of circumstances. In addition to his surprising ascension to starter with eight days' notice, he barely played last preseason and had to learn a brand-new playbook as he adjusted to life in the NFL.

A year later and he is much wiser and better off than he was as a wide-eyed first-timer.

"I'm excited," Wentz said. "The mental side of things, being comfortable with the environment and knowing what to expect, being able to take playbook knowledge to the next level."

Wentz says he rested this offseason while also staying fit, working on his footwork and a few minor things, and staying fresh as the team reports for voluntary workouts this week. He'll enter the offseason with a completely new quarterbacks room with the departure of de facto coach on the field Chase Daniel. In his place is former Eagles starter Nick Foles and former Penn Stater Matt McGloin.

"I have a lot of confidence in Nick, everybody has good things to say about him and now Matt coming in, we have a really good quarterbacks room, some smart individuals in there," Wentz said. "Obviously we will be missing Chase, he knew Doug [Pederson]'s offense and was a professional and veteran."

In 2017, with just one year of action under his belt, it sounds like Wentz has become the professional and the veteran. It would be impressive for Wentz to post better numbers in 2017, but he's not focused on that.

"Making the playoffs, winning the division and just seeing what happens," Wentz said. "The No. 1 goal is winning the East, that's what we set our sights on but we have long way to go until then."

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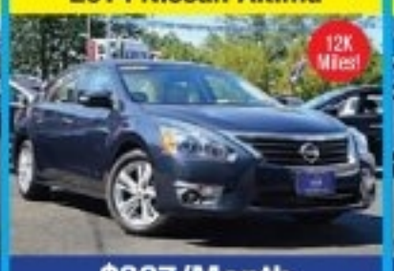

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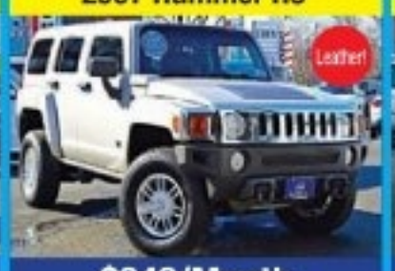

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FANTASY BASEBALL: DON'T DO WHAT'S POPULAR, AVOID ZIMMERMAN, GRAVEMAN

OPINION

KYLE BISHOP
@amoralpanic

Each of the major fantasy platforms allows you to view transaction trends across all leagues — which players other owners are flocking to or running from en masse. Should you follow the wisdom of the crowds or go against the grain? Let's find out.

Popular adds

Hitter: Ryan Zimmerman, 1B, Washington Nationals
Zimmerman has come flying out of the gate in 2017, hitting .341/.386/.659 with three homers in his first 11 games. After posting easily the worst season of his career last year, fantasy owners are clearly buying a resurgence. A closer look, however, suggests they should be a bit more skeptical. Zimmerman is enjoying some fortune on batted balls (.407 BABIP) and currently boasts a HR/FB% that is twice his career average. There's been no real change in his approach or swing to support those numbers. Avoid.

Pitcher: Kendall Graveman, SP, Oakland Athletics
Graveman established himself as your typical innings eater last season, using a groundball-heavy approach and limiting walks enough to post serviceable numbers. He's opened the season with a 2-0 record, 2.00 ERA, and 1.00 WHIP in three starts. Those are some nice, round numbers… but so is his strand rate, which currently checks in at 100%. Obviously, that's unsustainable. Graveman is also benefiting from a .204 BABIP (career .290) despite allowing a higher rate of quality contact than ever before, and still having trouble keeping the ball in the yard. Avoid.

Popular drops

Hitter: Byron Buxton, OF, Minnesota Twins
So far this season, Buxton has come to the plate 42 times. He has struck out in exactly half of those opportunities, while walking once. He has only four hits — two singles and two doubles — and one stolen base. In short, this is exactly the kind of start nobody wanted to see from Buxton. The former top prospect is still just 23, but the contact issues that have plagued him at the big-league level don't appear to have gone away. Owners in dynasty leagues should continue to be patient, but those in redraft formats can explore other options. Cut.

Pitcher: Matt Shoemaker, SP, Los Angeles Angels
Shoemaker has a reputation for inconsistency, and he's come by it honestly. He's made 74 starts since the beginning of the 2014 season. 16 times, he's allowed four or more runs. 15 times, he's allowed zero. What makes Shoemaker such a volatile asset? Simple — he's entirely reliant on his splitter. When it's working, he is often dominant. When it's not, he's a batting-practice pitcher, prone to giving up home runs in bunches. Cut.

Don't pick up a guy like Ryan Zimmerman based on name recognition. GETTY IMAGES

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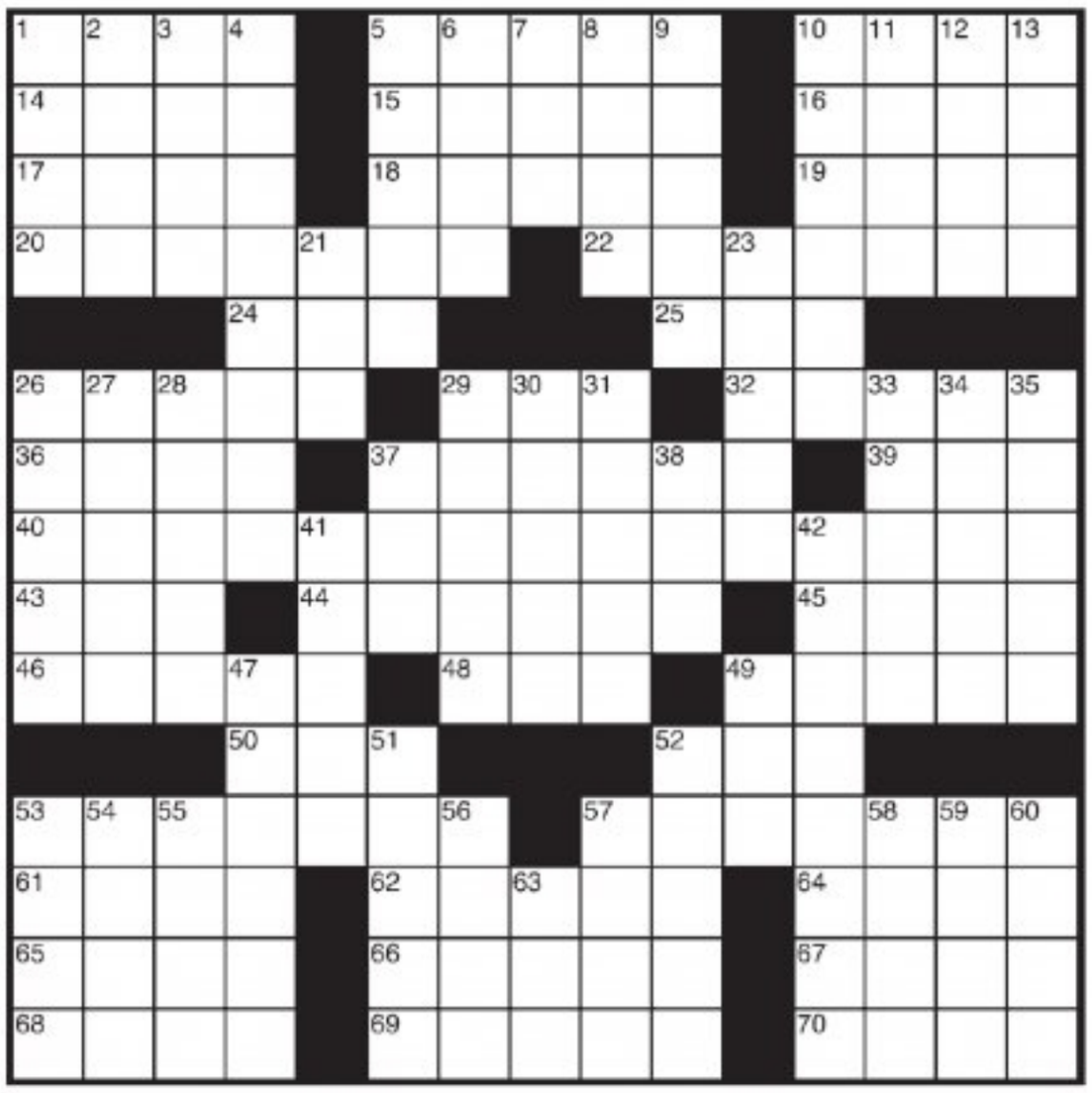

Across
1 Mutt's crony
5 Wisdom tooth
10 Recover
14 Singer – Guthrie
15 Crumble away
16 La senorita
17 Prefix for logical
18 Mideast desert
19 "Hi- –, Hi-Lo"
20 Ungoverned
22 Like some subs
24 RR terminal
25 "Hold on Tight" rockers
26 Galaxy locale
29 Baton Rouge sch.
32 Meat jelly
36 Diva's solo
37 Kind of racket
39 Brian – of rock
40 Where to start (2 wds.)
43 Aberdeen single
44 Double-headed drums
45 Hawkeye portrayer
46 Ship bottoms
48 Business suff.
49 Cap'n's helpers
50 ECU issuer
52 Column ender
53 Broker?
57 Sent
61 Remnant
62 Rome's Via –
64 Mystique
65 Murray or Rice
66 Scorpion attack
67 Crash scene org.
68 Accordion parts
69 Ms. Lauder
70 Movie-lot locales

Down
1 Clink or cooler
2 Wagner's earth goddess
3 Winged it
4 Yellow pad
5 High-IQ group
6 Rocks to refine
7 Journal
8 Yemen's gulf
9 Ziegfeld show
10 Greeting words
11 Mr. Wiesel
12 "– en el Rancho Grande"
13 Wildlife refuge
21 Summer in Cannes
23 Fastener
26 Emcee Pat –
27 Trim
28 Anouk – of film
29 Not prohibited
30 Pony's comment
31 Probably hungry
33 Bell tower sounds
34 Early Andes dweller
35 "Fargo" filmmakers
37 Old C&W channel
38 Hypotheticals
41 Japanese immigrant
42 Thai neighbors
47 Window sills
49 Merit badge grp.
51 Discontinue
52 Reflection
53 Can. neighbor
54 Sea eagle
55 Counting-rhyme word
56 Sch. papers
57 One, to Helmut
58 Mandolin's kin
59 Prefix for while
60 Smidgens
63 Quarry

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easy

		8			9	3		
9		4					8	7
7			5		2		6	
		3		1			4	
			9		5			
	8			7		1		
	6		8		1			2
1	4					5		8
		9	2			6		

hard

	9	6	8		3			
1	8					4		2
				6				
		4	6				9	7
9			3		8			4
3	7				9	5		
				8				
7		1					4	8
			5		4	9	7	

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries If you want to make a change, look inward. Self-improvement will bring the highest returns and keep you out of trouble. Use common sense and set realistic goals.

Taurus Let your creative imagination take control and help you discover attributes you didn't know you had. Observation will help you ward off unpredictable individuals.

Gemini Offer only what you can and refuse to give in to someone trying to coerce you into helping or paying for things that aren't your responsibility.

Cancer Joint ventures are best avoided. Stay away from anyone promising you the world with little to back his or her words. A loss is likely if you mix money and emotions.

Leo Working alongside a colleague who doesn't agree with you will be difficult if you don't set guidelines. Make suggestions that promote compromise on both sides.

Virgo Emotional matters will escalate if you aren't careful what you say or how you treat someone you deal with daily. Show greater sensitivity toward your peers and family.

Libra Sensitive issues will be difficult to broach. Think carefully before you say something that may offend someone. Less is more when it comes to emotional matters.

Scorpio An emotional situation is best handled cautiously. Saying the wrong thing will hurt your reputation, status or chance to get ahead. Listen rather than react.

Sagittarius Look for new opportunities at networking functions or by reconnecting with former co-workers. A change will do you good. Make personal improvements.

Capricorn Emotional matters will escalate if you take on someone who doesn't share your opinions. Having an open mind is good, but don't give in to manipulation.

Aquarius Emotions will spring up out of the blue and could result in a costly error if you aren't careful. Stay focused on what is doable, not on the impossible.

Pisces Personal partnerships should be handled with care. Go out of your way to accommodate someone in need or a cause you want to help. EUGENIA LAST

Yesterday's answers

S	L	E	W			C	O	Q		D	A	F	T	
C	U	P	I	D		T	O	F	U		E	M	I	R
A	L	I	C	E		H	I	F	I		A	B	E	E
T	U	C	K	E	D	I	N		B	A	R	E	L	Y
				P	J	S		P	B	S		R	D	S
S	P	A	T	E	S		A	L	L	A	N			
O	R	L	O	N		G	R	E	E	N	E	Y	E	D
B	O	E	R		A	N	E	A	R		S	E	R	E
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			H	O	R	S	T		D	I	S	H	E	S
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O	B	E	Y	E	D		M	U	S	I	N	G	L	Y
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D	U	N	N		N	O	M	S		E	L	B	O	W
S	E	E	S		G	E	O				L	E	N	S

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